Holotype male, near PARKER DAM, CALIFORNIA, April 12, 1952, R. L. Usinger, and allotype female, wash 3.5 mi. N. Cross Roads, California, April 12, 1952, J. D. Lattin, in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco. One male and five female paratypes, wash 3.5 mi. N. Cross Roads, California, April 12, 1952, J. D. Lattin, in the R. L. Usinger Collection at the University of California. One male and one female paratypes, same data, in the personal collection of Mr. Lattin.

The difference in the locality of the holotype and the remainder of the specimens examined is merely a difference on the part of the two collectors in labelling the specimens. These data represent the same locality.

Closely related to *Nerthra stygica* Say, *N. mexicana* (Melin) and *N. martini* Todd. This species may be separated from *N. stygica* by the fact that the hemelytra are normal with well-developed membranes. The distinctive clasper of the male (fig 2) will separate this species from the males of *N. mexicana* (Melin (fig. 3) and *N. martini* Todd (fig. 1). The females of this species differ from the females of *N. martini* Todd in that the emargination of the last ventral abdominal segment is broadly rounded. To the knowledge of the writer it may only be separated from females of *N. mexicana* (Melin) by distribution.

A NEW HIPPOMELAS FROM CALIFORNIA

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Hippomelas dianae Helfer, new species

Holotype male elongate, subcuneate; aeneoviridis above and beneath; pubescence short, white, moderately dense; intervals of elytra sparsely efflorescent. *Head* moderately, coarsely, irregularly setopunctuate; eyes rather prominent; antennae inserted under conspicuous oblique ridges, eleven segmented, scape long, second segment slightly longer than broad, third segment much longer than second, serrate from fourth segment, segments four through eleven each with an area of sensory pores along outer edge, and with an intero-terminal sensory fossa, terminal segment with a distinct appendix; clypeous angularly,, not deeply emarginate; labrum bilobate, testaceous, pale. *Pronotum* broadest at base with front margin broadly arcuate, sides broadly

rounded past middle becoming sinuate to basal angles which are prominent, base narrowly sinuate at middle and more broadly sinuate at either side, coarsely, irregularly setopunctate with a few irregular levigated spaces. *Scutellum* small, rounded, depressed anteriorly. *Elytra* broadest at base, narrowing gradually to apical third, then more strongly and becoming serrate to apices which are bidentate, each elytron with five feeble costae; rather densely, finely, shallowly setopunctate. *Prosternal spine* punctate at middle between coxae but impunctate toward sides and tip, with a strong juxtacoxal submarginal setopunctate stria. *Mesosternum* divided for reception of tip of prosternal spine, meso-metasternal suture scarcely evident. *Metacoxal plates* cut off externally by a lateral lobe of the abdomen. *Abdomen* with suture between first and second segments distinct, posterior margin of third segment strongly angulate toward sides; entire surface rather densely, shallowly, irregularly setopunctate; last segment truncate at tip, incised at each side, with a feeble transverse subapical plate. *Forelegs* with tibiae curved, strongly margined below ,and denticulate internally, tarsi of all legs long and slender. *Genitalia* dark in color, rather short, with adeagus evenly narrowed and acute, parameres broadest at about two-thirds from their base, with margins rather gradually curving, not lyrate. *Length* 13 mm., width 4 mm.

Allotype female similar in all respects except larger, length 16.5 mm., width 6 mm., protibiae not denticulate internally, and posterior margins of abdominal segments two, three, and four irregularly dentate laterally. Apical segment of abdomen largely obscured by dense efflorescence.

Holotype, allotype, and some hundreds of additional specimens, many of them designated as paratypes, collected at PALM SPRINGS AND WHITEWATER, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, mostly in July, by J. O. Martin, E. C. Van Dyke, P. D. Hurd, J. W. MacSwain, and others. They were consistently taken from *Ephedra*. Also several specimens from other desert localities which are doubtless the same species but which I have not designated as paratypes. Additional large series exist, in the collection of the University of California at Davis, etc. Type material deposited in California Academy of Science, principal series in California Academy of Sciences and the California Insect Survey, University of California.

The male genitalia easily distinguish this species from *Hippomelas planicosta* and *H. obliterata* with which it has been confused in collections.

Some specimens are considerably darker in color than the types, some (fresh specimens) densely efflorescent above, some with a faint cupreous shine. The smallest male is 11.25 mm. long, the largest female 17.5 mm. long.

I take pleasure in dedicating this interesting species to my wife Diane.